

Staying Green: Waste Reduction in the Lodging Industry

Up to 70% of the lodging industry's waste stream can be diverted from disposal at a landfill or incinerator through recycling, reuse or waste prevention techniques.

The following are waste reduction tips and advice for lodging managers for reducing costs and improving services to customers that recycle at home and on vacation.

What is Waste Reduction?

Source Reduction is waste prevention and includes reusing products or packaging already manufactured, as well as lengthening the life of products to postpone disposal.

Recycling refers to those materials recovered from the solid waste stream and transported to a processor or end user for recycling.





Composting refers to the organic component of solid waste that is biologically decomposed under controlled conditions. It is an aerobic process in which organic materials are ground or shredded and then decomposed to humus in windrow piles, mechanical digesters, drums, or similar enclosures.

Saving Money with Better Waste Management

"We eliminated the extra pick-up service needed during the season by simply putting an eight yard cardboard recycling dumpster alongside our waste dumpster."
Bill McDonald, Port Motor Inn.

"After we switched to a larger eight yard dumpster our hauling service bill dropped from \$1,200 to between \$200-\$400 per month." Lon Henderson, Sunset Hill House.

Benefits of Waste Reduction

-  **Cost Avoidance** through amended purchasing practices, reduced hauling and disposal costs.
-  **Revenues** through the sale of recyclable materials.
-  **Eco-tourism** is in, and recycling caters to a new kind of guest that recycles at home and demonstrates a hotel's commitment to the environment.
-  **Special recognition** and promotion as a model in waste management in state, non-profit and tourism related publications.

Getting Started

- What materials (glass, paper, cardboard, etc.) are thrown away, in what quantities and from where do they originate?
- What are the solid waste disposal costs per unit, e.g., cost per ton?
- Does your waste hauler offer recycling service?
- Does the current waste service match the need? Monitor the level of service in terms of how full the dumpsters are just before pickup.
- Does the community transfer station take recycled materials at no cost?
- Can staff move recycled materials easily to appropriate storage areas where waste haulers have access?
- Will guests be involved in any part of the recycling / waste reduction activities?

For More Information contact

NH Dept. of Environmental Services
Waste Management Division
Planning & Community Assistance
6 Hazen Drive - PO Box 95
Concord, NH 03302-0095
(603) 271-2900

<http://www.des.state.nh.us/pcas>



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*The Lodging Industry
Can Help to Keep New
Hampshire Green*

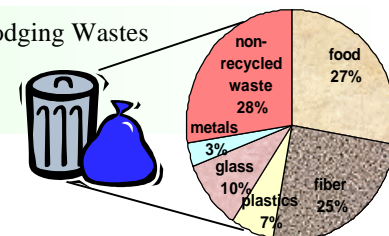




Waste Reduction Practices in the Lodging Industry

A complete guidebook on waste reduction for the lodging industry is online at <http://www.des.state.nh.us/pcas/lodgeguide.pdf>

Lodging Wastes



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Housekeeping

Common Waste: cleaning bottle containers, rags/wipes, plastic buckets.

- ✓ Modify housekeeping carts or collection to separate out beverage containers, newspapers, etc.
- ✓ Purchase concentrated cleaning supplies in bulk and use refillable or recyclable bottles.
- ✓ Purchase vacuum cleaners with reusable bags vs. disposables.



Guestrooms

Common Waste: newspaper, magazines, bottles, cans, carpet and textiles.

- ✓ Institute a linen and towel policy that allows guests to request new linens/towels.
- ✓ Deliver newspapers upon request instead of automatically.
- ✓ Reuse or donate old furniture to charity.
- ✓ Recycle telephone books.
- ✓ Supply recycling containers either in the rooms or at a common area (vending area) to be picked up by housekeeping.



Bathrooms

Common Waste: plastic soap/shampoo bottles, plastic cups, shower caps, worn towels.

- ✓ Use paper towels, toilet paper, facial tissues with 100% post consumer recycled content paper.
- ✓ Replace paper towels with electric hand dryers in common bathrooms.
- ✓ Substitute washable cups in place of disposable ones.
- ✓ Provide amenities such as shower caps, shoe wipes on request.
- ✓ Use refillable bath soap, shampoo, hair rinse and hand lotion dispensers for guest rooms to eliminate soap pieces and plastic bottles.



Kitchen & Restaurant

Common Waste: cardboard, beverage containers, food waste.

- ✓ Use reusable food storage containers.
- ✓ Use dispenser systems or reusable cups for soda and beer.
- ✓ Separate and compost vegetable food waste, possibly working with a local farm.
- ✓ Distribute condiments from behind the counter, rather than single service packets.
- ✓ Use ceramic or reusable mugs or dishes in restaurants or cafeterias.
- ✓ Recycle plastic, tin and glass food containers in the kitchen.



Public Areas

Common Waste: printed tourist information, office paper, newspaper, magazines, bottles and cans.

- ✓ Place recycling containers at front desk and administrative offices to collect mixed paper.
- ✓ Purchase refillable or recycled toner cartridges.
- ✓ Go digital – use a computer to replace paper files.
- ✓ Post signs/placards to announce waste reduction options and available guest participation.
- ✓ Purchase stationery composed of recycled content paper fiber.
- ✓ Use reusable cups for coffee in common areas.



Laundry

Common Waste: plastic containers, packaging, cardboard.

- ✓ Purchase laundry soaps in bulk and in concentrated form, and mix in reusable plastic spray bottles.
- ✓ Reuse or recycle plastic soap containers.
- ✓ Use reusable baskets or protective covers for dry cleaning service, versus using disposable plastic covers.